are avilable regarding the number of mentally handicapped persons actually engaged in suitable occupations.

**Pending cases in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court and State level Labour Courts**

*254. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court and State level Labour Courts for a long time;

(b) if so, the lates position in this regard;

(c) the reasons for pendency of these cases; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for expenditious trial of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) As on 30.9.1996, 6,049 Industrial disputes and 4833 applications were pending before Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts set up by the Central Government. In the States and Union Territory of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Pondicherry, Manipur, Punjab, Haryana and Daman and Diu 42,181 industrial disputes and applications were pending as on 31.12.1995. In the remaining States, except the States of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh for which information is not available, 3,55,428 Industrial disputes and applications were pending as on 30.6.96.

Major reasons for pendency are:—

(i) Almost all the disputes are now required to be referred to the Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts in confirmity with the direction of the Supreme Court;

(ii) vacancies in the post of Presiding Officers from time to time;

(iii) procedural impediments; and

(iv) shortage of Labour Courts in State/Union Territories.

While effecting procedural changes with a view to expediting disposal of cases is a continuous process, some of the more important steps taken recently in this regard are as follows:—

— norms for disposal of cases by the Presiding Officers have been fixed;

— while old cases are accorded priority, fresh cases are being assigned to the Courts having lesser pendency;

— parties to the disputes are discouraged to seek adjournments and where unavoidable, short duration adjournments are allowed. They are also impressed upon to complete all formalities as expeditiously as possible;

— additional labour courts are being created keeping in view the overall pendency and subject to financial constraints;

— efforts are being made to improve the service conditions of the post of Presiding Officers; and

— efforts are being made to fill up vacancies in the post of Presiding Officers on priority basis.

**Number of Girls' Hostels for tribal girls run by Government**

*255. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Girls' Hostels in the country for the tribal girls run by Government.

(b) whether Government are aware that those hostels are facing several problems including lack of funds in their running; and

(c) the steps being taken to see that the hostels are run properly?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) A total of 1,033 hostels have been sanctioned to be constructed in various States for the tribal girls during the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan, upto 1995-96 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Hostel for ST girls.

(b) and (c) The up-keep and maintenance of the hostels are the responsbility of the State/UT concerned. The Central Assistance is limited to the construction of the hostel buildings only.

**Trust Fund to ameliorate the lot of mentally handicapped persons**

*256. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to create a Trust Fund for amelioration of the mentally handicapped persons;

(b) the steps being taken to ensure that the Trust Funds are utilised properly and the benefits reach those for whom they are meant; and

(c) the estimated number of mentally impaired persons in the country and of those who can be helped by treatment and other support to lead normal life with dignity standing on their own feet?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Ministry of Welfare introduced the Bill No. 82, "National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy Bill 1995" in Tenth Lok Sabha on 6.12.1995. However, the Bill could not come up for consideration in the Tenth Lok Sabha. Before reintroducing the Bill in Eleventh Lok Sabha, the fresh approval of the Cabinet has to be obtained. The action in this regard is in progress.

(b) Suitable provisions are proposed to be made for the proper accounting and audit of the Trust Funds in the proposed Bill and the Rules to be framed thereunder. Suitable rules and instructions will be made for ensuring that the benefits reach those for whom they are meant.

(c) Date compiled by small sample surveys from various parts of the country show that nearly 2 percent of the general population have mental retardation. No data are available regarding estimated number of mentally handicapped persons who can be helped by treatment to lead a normal life with dignity, standing on their own feet. Persons with mental retardation by definition require lifelong support. The degree of support varies according to severity i.e. the more severe the mental retardation, greater the support required.

**Quantum of production, consumption and export of coffee**

*257. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production, domestic consumption and the export of coffee during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the projections made for 1996-97; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The production, exports and estimated